

We claim:

1. In a method for separating by sedimentation red blood cells from a solution including blood and an anticoagulant, the improvement wherein said anticoagulant consists essentially of an inert anticoagulant.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said inert anticoagulant is CPD.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said CPD is mixed with said blood at a ratio of one part CPD and up to fifteen parts blood.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said inert anticoagulant is heparin.
5. In a method for separating by sedimentation red blood cells from a solution including blood and an anticoagulant, the improvement wherein said anticoagulant consists essentially of an anticoagulant selected from the group consisting of CPD and heparin.
6. A method for washing blood comprising the steps of providing said blood with an inert anticoagulant, mixing said blood with a washing solution, and allowing red blood cells to separate from said washing solution by sedimentation.
7. A method according to claim 6 wherein said inert anticoagulant is CPD.
8. A method according to claim 7 wherein said washing solution includes a starch solution.
9. A method according to claim 7 wherein said washing solution includes hetastarch.
10. A method according to claim 7 wherein said washing solution is 6% hetastarch.
11. A method according to claim 6 wherein said inert anticoagulant is heparin.
12. A solution comprising blood, anti-coagulant, and a washing solution, wherein said anticoagulant is selected from the group consisting of CPD and heparin.
13. A solution according to claim 12 wherein said washing solution comprises starch.
14. A solution according to claim 13 wherein said starch is hetastarch.

15. A solution consisting essentially of blood, an inert anti-coagulant, and a washing solution.

16. A solution according to claim 15 wherein said inert anticoagulant is CPD.

17. A solution according to claim 15 wherein said inert anticoagulant is heparin.

18. A solution according to claim 15 wherein said blood is a sediment layer of blood.

19. A solution according to claim 18 wherein said sediment layer contains a majority of the red blood cells of said blood.

20. A solution according to claim 19 wherein said sediment layer is about 30-64

Hematocrit.